



## LPG price cut down by Tk 50

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has cut down the price of private operators' Liquefied Petroleum Gas cylinder (12 kg) by Tk 50.

The move is in line with the global decline in LPG prices from Tk 1,228 to Tk 1,178, including value added tax.

BERC made the announcement at a virtual press conference yesterday – the same day the new price came into force.

The price of gas used for motor vehicles will also be cut down from the current Tk 57.24 per litre to Tk 54.95.

BERC Chairman Abdul Jalil said the decision was taken as the contract price set by Saudi Arabia (Saudi CP) declined to \$420 from the previous \$765.75 per metric tonne.



### Why do we urinate MORE IN WINTER?

STAR HEALTH DESK

You are warm and cosy under the blanket and suddenly you feel the need to pee, even though you emptied your bladder just a little while back.

This is a frequent and frustrating scenario during winter. But is there a reason behind this? And does this happen with everyone or should you be concerned about the frequent need to urinate in cold weather?

According to doctors, there is no need to worry because it is completely natural.

During winter, heat is lost from the surface areas of our body to the environment. So, our bodies attempt to reduce loss of heat by retaining it to our core.

In order to do so, blood flow to our extremities like fingers and toes is reduced and blood vessels are constricted. As a result, blood pressure rises because the same amount of blood now has less space to flow through.

Here's where the kidney's function comes in. To reduce the blood pressure, the kidney decides to reduce the volume of blood that flows

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**JOIE DE VIVRE ...** A little girl showing off her skills with a jump rope. Children of City Colony area in the capital's Gabtoli spend their time playing with each other with whatever toys they have while their day-labourer parents are out at work. To them, the togetherness and little joys of life are all that matter.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

### ABHIJAN-10 LAUNCH FIRE

# Neglect of duty at every step

## Probe panel holds 3 BIWTA, shipping dept officials, 4 launch owners, 4 staffers responsible

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Three officials of the Shipping Department and BIWTA, four owners and four crew members of the MV Abhijan-10 are responsible for the fire on the vessel that killed 49, a probe committee has found.

The shipping ministry's dock where the engines of the launch were replaced without approval are also liable, it found.

The seven-member committee formed by the shipping ministry after the incident has confirmed speculations that the engine being used was faulty and the fire originated from the engine room.

Committee chief Joint Secretary Tofayel Islam of the shipping ministry confirmed that the probe report was submitted to the ministry secretary last night.

The committee also made 25 recommendations that include fire safety

inspections on vessels by the firefighters every three months, fire drills twice a year, and safety training to crew members, official sources said.

The fire broke out on the MV Abhijan-10 around 3:00 am on December 24. Several hundred people were on board the Barguna-bound launch on the Sugandha River in Jhalakathi at the time.

Rasel Sheikh, 38, who was among those injured in the fire, died yesterday at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, taking the toll from the tragedy to 49.

Of the 12 patients being treated at the institute, two are in the ICU, hospital officials said.

The probe report said the owners violated rules by mounting two more powerful and old engines in the launch, replacing the previous two

without permission from the Shipping Department, sources said.

As per the rules, an inland marine engineer should have been on the launch, they said. But there was none. Thus, the four owners are responsible.

Owners of the vessel Hamjalal Sheikh, Shamim Ahmed, Rasel Ahmed are in police custody. Ferdous Hasan Rabbi, another owner, who is a minor, has not been detained, sources said.

The dock authorities are responsible for mounting old engines without taking prior approval from the authorities, they added.

Although the launch resumed operation after more than three months, the ship surveyor, inspectors of the Shipping Department and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority did not

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### DU QUESTION LEAK

# 126 set to stand trial

## 85 expelled students among them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against 126 people, including 85 expelled students of Dhaka University, in a case filed over their alleged involvement in leaking question papers of the university's "Gha" unit admission test in 2017.

One hundred of the accused, now on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Hasibul Haque read out the charges to them.

Charges were framed against 26 in their absence and arrest warrants were issued against them in the case filed with Shahbagh Police Station under the Public Examinations Law 1980.

The magistrate fixed March 30 for starting trial of the case.

On June 23 of 2019, Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Sumon Kumar Das, also investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court.

During the investigation, CID arrested 47 of the 126 suspects, including the alleged mastermind, Alip Kumar Biswas, a suspended assistant director of Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP).

Forty-six of them have already given statements before magistrates, confessing to their crimes on different dates.

This organised gang struck deals with government job aspirants and public university admission seekers in exchange for hefty sums and helped many cheat their ways into universities and government offices.

Police tracked down the gang members following a series of arrests since October 2017.

In its very first raid at two DU dormitories, the CID arrested two BCL leaders – only hours before the university's "Gha" unit admission test on October 20, 2017.

After further investigation, the CID found that the questions were mainly leaked in two ways: from the printing press the night before the exams and through digital devices minutes before the tests started.

Job or admission seekers were given the answers via tiny ear-pieces a few minutes into the exams.

Apart from Alip, the other ringleaders are suspended Janata Bank senior officer Hafizur Rahman Hafiz, Assistant Administrative Officer of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation Mostafa Kamal, businessman Masudur Rahman Tajul, and job seeker Ibrahim Molla, said the CID.

Some of the gang members, led by Natore District Sports Officer Rakibul Hasan, used to leak questions from the printing press hours before the admission tests, according to investigators.

Meantime, another charge sheet against 104 of the 126 accused under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act was also submitted. The case is now pending with the Dhaka Cyber Tribunal.

### Charges framed against 26 in their absence and arrest warrants issued against them

### SWECHHASEBAK LEAGUE

# Two shot by intraparty rivals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Two Swechhasebak League leaders were shot in a drive-by shooting allegedly by a former member of the same organisation in Malgram area of Bogura town on Sunday night.

Nazmul Hasan Orange, 28, literature and cultural affairs secretary of Bogura Swechhasebak League, was shot in the head and has been in life support at Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital.

The other injured, Minhaz Sheikh Apel, 27, president of ward-8 Swechhasebak League, was shot in the stomach.

They were attacked by former leader of the organisation Russell Mahmud, 28, over establishing supremacy in the area, locals said.

A witness said Russell and several others came to the scene on two motorcycles around 8:00pm, opened fire at the two men, and quickly left the scene.

Orange's wife Sornali Akter filed a case accusing Russell, and six other named and 4-5 unnamed individuals.

Selim Reza, officer-in-charge of Bogura Police Station, said police were looking for the suspects.



**A rickshaw-puller in tears after a DSCC mobile court seized his battery-run rickshaw in Old Dhaka. Battery-run rickshaws are allowed to be driven by those with physical disabilities, but the pullers must have proper documents. The photo was taken during a drive against illegal rickshaws on the Beribandh Road of Chawkbazar yesterday.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Taimur loses post of BNP chief's adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has removed Taimur Alam Khandakar, who is contesting for mayor in January 16

Narayanganj city polls as an independent candidate, from the post of the party chairperson's adviser.

BNP leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi made the announcement yesterday.

Earlier, Taimur was removed as Narayanganj BNP convenor.

The party is not taking part in the polls, saying no free and fair election is possible under this government.

Taimur said, "I don't know whether the decision was taken to give advantage to the ruling party's candidate."

